

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS (BRAZINSKAS, ALGIRDAS)(BRAZINSKAS, PRANAS)

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY FOLLOWS UP ON BRAZINSKAS CASE

REF: (A) STATE 182619 NOTAL (B) 76 STATE 246412

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR CHETVERIKOV CALLED ON EUR/SOV
DIRECTOR GARRISON AUGUST 19 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF
BRAZINSKAS CASE. GARRISON SAID BOTH HAVE BEEN ORDERED
DEPORTED TO LITHUANIA, AND THEIR ATTORNEY IS APPEALING;
MATTER IS BEING PURSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH US LAW AND
NORMAL PROCEDURES.

2. CHETVERIKOV COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT
ATTACHES GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO BRAZINSKAS CASE, AND
OBSERVED THAT UNDER ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND
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DOMESTIC US LAW THE TWO SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.
GARRISON OBSERVED THAT US GOVERNMENT COULD ONLY PURSUE CASE
AS AN IMMIGRATION MATTER - THE 1970 HIJACKING WAS OUTSIDE
US JURISDICTION AND BRAZINSKAS HAD BEEN PROSECUTED IN
TURKEY ON CHARGES ARISING FROM HIJACKING.

3. CHETVERIKOV EXPRESSED INTEREST AND SURPRISE THAT

BRAZINSKAS HAD BEEN ORDERED DEPORTED TO LITHUANIA AND NOT

USSR. DEPTOFFS TOLD HIM THAT RULING HAD BEEN MADE BY
IMMIGRATION JUDGE AND HAD NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE,
ALTHOUGH IT WAS CONSISTENT WITH US POLICY.

4. CHETVERIKOV OBSERVED, AND GARRISON AGREED, THAT APPEALS
AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS COULD GO ON FOR YEARS. HE NOTED
THAT DEPARTMENT HAD NEVER RESPONDED TO SOVIET EMBASSY'S
OCTOBER, 1976 AIDE MEMOIRE (REF B), AND ASKED FOR REPLY.
GARRISON UNDERTOOK TO REEXAMINE AIDE MEMOIRE AND LOOK INTO
POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING REPLY. CHRISTOPHER

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